

SENTIMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE ON THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

A Poll of the Members of the Senate and of the Assembly Shows That Majorities of Both Houses

THE QUESTION.

What do you think of the course of President Theodore Roosevelt of the New York City Police Board?

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 29.—The Legislature was polled to-day on the above question, with the view of ascertaining how the houses stood toward all the legislation in which Roosevelt is supposed to be interested. He, in conjunction with the other Police Commissioners and two of the Excise Board, framed an Excise bill which is expected to supersede the Raines bill, about which there has been much discussion. He wishes to secure certain legislation looking to the increase of Police Commissioners' power over the force, and, not least, the fate of the Greater New York bill is thought to be involved with his.

The poll shows a strong sentiment in the Legislature against him. But a large part of this is due to his advocacy of the use of children as spies in

I can only say that I believe in the enforcement of the law.

ALBERT A. WHAY, OF BROOKLYN (REP.): I do not believe in legislating Mr. Roosevelt out of office. He has simply done his duty as he saw it. If he has displeased some people in so doing he has done no more than every other public man. You cannot suit every one. It would certainly be a crying shame to disgrace Roosevelt by legislating him out of office. I do not believe the Republican party would sanction anything of the kind. I cannot criticize Mr. Roosevelt's methods, except to say that I think he means well.

MICHAEL J. COFFEY, OF BROOKLYN (DEM.): The time has come when the responsibility for the administration of police affairs in New York City should be placed where it belongs. Not only does there seem to have been an increase in crime, but I know, as a matter of fact, that a number of people over there, some of them personal friends of mine, are afraid to be out on the streets after 10 o'clock at night. We read every day, and the statements are not denied, that people are being held up in broad daylight and robbed on the public highways. Women have been assaulted at their own homes, and many murders have been committed. Somebody must shoulder the responsibility for all this, and it must be placed upon the Chief of Police

Are Opposed to Him Irrespective of Party Lines.

I don't approve of Commissioner Roosevelt's course. There are very few who do, I imagine.

LE GRAND C. TIBBETTS, OF NEW JERSEY (REP.): Yes, I approve of the course pursued by Police Commissioner Roosevelt, because he is simply carrying out the law.

THE ASSEMBLY.

Members 150
Number interviewed 128
Favor Roosevelt 24
Against Roosevelt 88
Non-committal 26

FRANCIS E. LAIBBEER, OF NEW YORK (REP.): Yes, sir; I approve Mr. Roosevelt through and through, in everything.

ALBERT C. WILSON, OF NEW YORK (REP.): I do not approve of most of his methods, which I regard as indirect, although I am in favor of law and order on general principles.

JAMES F. MACCABE, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): He is too extreme; there are always two ways, and I believe in the happy medium.

CHARLES S. ADLER, OF NEW YORK

thing and everything that pertains to Roosevelt and Rooseveltism in New York. If I could make my disapproval of him any more apparent by saying more, I would do so.

GEORGE W. MEYER, JR., OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I strongly disapprove his course.

BENJAMIN HOFFMAN, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): No; I don't approve of Roosevelt or his schemes. That is all I care to say about him.

EDWARD W. HART, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I do not approve of Commissioner Roosevelt or his work. It would take too long to give my reasons.

ANDREW J. GALLIGAN, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): No; not by any means. Does anybody approve of such conduct of an officer?

THOMAS J. BARRY, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I don't care to discuss Roosevelt. Very few approve his course entirely.

ARTHUR C. BUTTS, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I totally disapprove of Roosevelt's course from start to finish, and especially the child-spy performances.

LOUIS DAVIDSON, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I am opposed to Roosevelt and his spy system absolutely. It is arbitrary and un-American and has no regard for the rights of individuals. I believe that public sentiment in New York City is overwhelmingly against him, of which the recent election was a significant proof. If he will not heed that, let the Legislature take him in hand and pass my bill against the child-spy system.

JOHN M. DELMOUR, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I am opposed to Commissioner Roosevelt and his methods, particularly to his child-spy system.

EDWARD C. BRENNAN, OF KINGS (REP.): Put me down as approving Roosevelt in all except his spy system.

CHARLES H. ERBETTS, OF KINGS (DEM.): Approve Roosevelt? No; I do not. I think he has entirely overdone his work, especially when he set up the spy system.

JOHN M. ZURN, OF KINGS (DEM.): I am not at all in accord with Mr. Roosevelt's ideas.

GEORGE E. WALDO, OF KINGS (REP.): I think Roosevelt is decidedly overdoing the business, paying more attention to the liquor business than to other departments of law enforcement. I believe in enforcing all laws in a reasonable spirit.

JACOB A. LIVINGSTON, OF KINGS (REP.): I do not approve of any of Roosevelt's measures. It is not good policy to pursue any such methods as he has done.

ABRAHAM C. DE GRAW, OF KINGS (REP.): I can't say I approve altogether of his methods. He is too arbitrary.

THOMAS H. WAGSTAFF, OF KINGS (REP.): There is no use of being too strict. The best thing to do is to amend the law. I

countenance child spies, whether his name is Roosevelt or not.

HENRY MARSHALL, OF KINGS (REP.): I cannot approve of any child-spy employment. Of course, I don't know to what extent and for what purposes he has employed them.

FREDERICH C. HUGHES, OF KINGS (REP.): I approve of the enforcement, but I do not like the law that is being enforced, nor do I countenance any child spies.

GEORGE T. KELLY, OF ALBANY (DEM.): I disapprove; his methods are too arbitrary.

JAMES KEENHOLTS, OF ALBANY (REP.): He might give better satisfaction in general.

AMOS J. ADLETT, OF ALBANY (REP.): I guess Roosevelt knows his business, and so will this Legislature when it acts on Greater New York.

AMOS J. ADLETT, OF ALBANY (REP.): I can't say that my approval of Roosevelt is very warm. I don't care whether he is a Republican or not. He is a great deal too strict and arbitrary.

ROBERT G. SCHERER, OF ALBANY (REP.): Approve of Roosevelt? I do, but I don't care to discuss the matter.

The Greater New York bill is a measure of vast importance. It is too great to suffer defeat, because it may interfere with any one man. As a general thing, the people in the country approve any official who obeys the law.

HUGH W. MCCELLAN, OF COLUMBIA (DEM.): I don't like this child-spy policy.

FRANKLIN P. SAUNDERS, OF CORTLAND (REP.): I approve of Commissioner Roosevelt, if only because he has had the nerve to enforce the law.

DELOS H. MACKAY, OF DELAWARE (REP.): In a general way I certainly believe all existing laws should be enforced, but have no sympathy with any child spy methods.

AUGUSTUS B. GRAY, OF DUTCHESS (REP.): I believe this child-spy matter is carrying the thing too far entirely. Let the laws be enforced, but not at the expense of such steps as he has taken.

HERMAN M. BLAISDELL, OF ERIE (REP.): I think that Mr. Roosevelt's course is quite generally approved. I think well of it.

HENRY W. HILL, OF ERIE (REP.): Roosevelt seems to be doing his duty as he sees it. That is all I could approve of.

HENRY L. STEINEL, OF ERIE (REP.): I approve in general his course; he may

embodied in a short interview. I certainly do not indorse any child spy programme.

LOUIS BEDELL, OF ORANGE (REP.): I approve of the enforcement of existing laws, no matter what the laws may be or who may be affected thereby. I can't say, however, that I have any sympathy with the employment of child spies.

FRED L. DOWNS, OF ORLEANS (REP.): It is certainly rather arbitrary. I don't approve of any employment of children as spies.

CHARLES B. GORHAM, OF OTSEGO (REP.): Sometimes the end justifies the means. I think Roosevelt is plucky, and I like him.

JOSEPH RONDY, OF ONONDAGA (REP.): I approve his general course, but denounce employment of spies, children or adults.

THOMAS M. COSTELLO, OF OSWEGO (REP.): In some things I approve his work, but I approve no Rooseveltism. Let him enforce the law, but make none himself. No spies. It is despicable.

L. P. TAYLOR, OF OSWEGO (REP.): I approve in general of Roosevelt's ideas, but I look with contempt on the employment of spies, especially children.

CHARLES A. STEELE, OF ONTARIO (REP.): I can tell that a woman was induced by Roosevelt to send her little girl in to buy

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 29.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I do not approve of a Puritan administration of the Roosevelt stripe in a city with a prospective population of four or five million of people where every class, east, race and color are represented, and where people of every creed make their home.

JOHN B. STANCHFIELD,
Democratic member of the Assembly from Elmira.

the detection of Excise law violations. However little ground there may be, a strong prejudice has grown in the Legislature on this point, which may count much in future balloting. It is this prejudice which has signed a large number of the Republican members on the Roosevelt's opponents. It has eliminated the sentiment would be almost purely on party lines.

THE SENATE.

Members 50
Number interviewed 49
Favor Roosevelt 12
Against Roosevelt 16
Non-committal 21

BERNARD F. MARTIN, OF NEW YORK CITY (DEM.): My ideas differ so radically from those of Mr. Roosevelt that it is not necessary to ask me what I think of him. He has made so many converts for the Democratic party I would like to see him retain his office a while longer.

MACHIE FEATHERSON, OF NEW YORK CITY (DEM.): I will only say of Mr. Roosevelt that his views do not suit Tammany.

JOHN F. AHEARN, OF NEW YORK CITY (DEM.): I am opposed to the reform administration, as all good citizens ought to be. This will give me a clue as to my personal and political leaning, and from that clue the public can draw their own inferences as to what I think should be done regarding Greater New York and Mr. Roosevelt.

CHARLES L. GUY, OF NEW YORK CITY (DEM.): I disapprove of many of the hysterical, ill-balanced acts of the present Police Commissioners. I believe in the enforcement of law, but not in subordinating all matters of greater importance to a particular fact. The right remedy is to submit the question of Sunday selling to the voters of cities of the first class, as both parties promised in their local platforms. The hypocrisy of the Republican party on this question should be dispensed by all of our citizens. It is impossible to foment what action self-respecting Democrats will take on any measure until it comes before them in its final form.

LOUIS MUNZINGER, OF NEW YORK CITY (DEM.): No, I certainly do not approve of Roosevelt.

CHARLES B. PAGE, OF NEW YORK CITY (REP.): I do not wholly approve of Commissioner Roosevelt. I think he goes altogether too far.

JOHN FORD, OF NEW YORK CITY (REP.): I certainly do approve of Commissioner Roosevelt's course.

PATRICK H. MCCABEN, OF BROOKLYN (DEM.): No, I can't approve of Roosevelt, although he is a personal friend.

FRANK GALLAGHER, OF BROOKLYN (DEM.): Most decidedly, I do not approve of Commissioner Roosevelt.

GEORGE W. BRUSH, OF BROOKLYN (REP.):

DR. PARKHURST ON THE LEGISLATURE.

Dr. Parkhurst, in talking of the Legislature, said:

"It seems to me that the actions of the Legislature indicate that it does not mean to do anything toward finding out the sentiment in this city regarding consolidation and the reorganization which must follow it. It strikes me that the methods the legislators are employing are farcical. I don't know how long the people will stand this drab, but it seems to me to be transparent in the extreme."

or his superiors of whom President Roosevelt is a member. He has constituted himself the spokesman for the Commissioners, and I notice that he also makes the claim that crime has decreased. There are a number of ways by which Mr. Roosevelt could be legislated out of office. It could be done under the Greater New York bill, or by passing the latter first bring in a supplementary bill that would go into operation immediately. I might as well say here that the sentiment expressed on all sides in Albany is to the effect that the Greater New York bill will pass. Under such a bill there would undoubtedly be a clash between the Police and Fire Departments of the different cities and districts, and to avoid all that it may and probably will become necessary to consolidate all the departments under one commission. Roosevelt would not be sustained.

JULIUS L. WIEMAN, OF BROOKLYN (REP.): Morally I suppose Mr. Roosevelt is right in the course he has adopted, but practically his course has been prejudicial to the comfort of the citizens of New York, and for that reason I disapprove of it.

CHARLES LAMF, OF BUFFALO (REP.): I can only approve of Commissioner Roosevelt's course partially.

WILLIAM E. JOHNSON, OF WAVERLY (REP.): Generally speaking, I don't think I do approve of Roosevelt.

RICHARD HIGBIE, OF BABYLON (REP.): I approve of Commissioner Roosevelt's course. He has only done his duty.

HORACE WHITE, OF SYRACUSE (REP.): No, I don't approve of Mr. Roosevelt in all things. I decline to specify my objections.

BENJAMIN M. WILCOX, OF AUBURN (REP.): In some particulars I do agree with Mr. Roosevelt. In others I do not. I can't answer the question directly.

NEVADA N. STRANAHAN, OF FULTON (REP.): I approve of Mr. Roosevelt so far as enforcing the law goes.

SIMON SEIBERT, OF BUFFALO (REP.): I disapprove of Commissioner Roosevelt's course in a general way as impractical and calculated to work great hardship to a community not accustomed to years to the enforcement of obnoxious laws.

JOHN RAINES, OF CANANDAIGUA (REP.): Yes, I certainly do approve of Mr. Roosevelt's course. And so will the people.

TIMOTHY E. ELLSWORTH, OF LOCKPORT (REP.): I approve of Commissioner Roosevelt's course simply so far as enforcing the law.

G. A. DAVIS, OF LANCASTER (REP.): One must approve of Commissioner Roosevelt's acts from a public standpoint.

EDGAR T. BRACKETT, OF SARATOGA SPRINGS (REP.): I cannot answer the question further than to say that I wish that Commissioner Roosevelt could have complied with his oath and enforced the laws without being so dictatorial.

JAMES BALLANTINE, OF ANDER (REP.): No, I do not approve of Commissioner Roosevelt's course.

SAMUEL J. FOLEY, OF NEW YORK (DEM.):

DAVIDSON EXPLAINS HIS "INFANT SPY" BILL.

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 29.

To the Editor of the Journal:

The bill introduced by me last night relative to the employment of infants as police spies was dictated by the public sentiment which prevails, not alone in the district I represent, but throughout the entire city. In my judgment the employment of infants to enter saloons for the purpose of detecting violations of the Excise law has the tendency to demoralize and corrupt the morals of youth.

Commissioner Roosevelt's flat-footed refusal to abrogate this pernicious system makes it absolutely incumbent upon the Legislature to remedy this evil in order to preserve and protect the many children to whom the temptation may be offered in the city of New York.

Roosevelt's arbitrary enforcements of the blue laws on the Statute Books have certainly met with the disapproval of the people of New York. Their disapproval was evidenced by the result of the recent election in that city. The citizens of the metropolis have been very patient under Mr. Roosevelt's obnoxious administration, but when in his effort to enforce an unpopular law he degraded the children, I think it is time that some legislative action was taken to stop the mischief.

LOUIS DAVIDSON,
Democratic member of the Assembly from New York city.

JOS. I. GREEN, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I am frank to say I disapprove with all my might.

JOHN P. CORRIGAN, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I disapprove his work entirely.

JOHN B. FITZGERALD, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I do not approve his course.

DANIEL E. FINN, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I don't like his system of child spies.

JOSEPH SCHULIM, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I most emphatically disapprove his whole course and methods.

DANIEL W. F. MCCOY, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I disapprove his work entirely.

THOMAS F. MYERS, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I am opposed to his reign.

PATRICK H. MURPHY, OF NEW YORK (REP.): So far as his enforcement of existing laws is concerned, yes. The only way to bring about the repeal of an obnoxious law is to enforce it. I am against any child-spy policy, no matter who does it or for what.

JACOB A. MITTACHIE, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I am thoroughly opposed to his work.

BARNABE H. MALONE, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I am positively opposed to his man's work.

WILLIAM L. LEONARD, OF NEW YORK (DEM.): I am strongly opposed to any-

favor liberal Sunday laws and no child spying.

THOMAS H. CULLEN, OF KINGS (DEM.): I disapprove of his methods entirely.

JOHN J. CAIN, OF KINGS (DEM.): I am most heartily opposed to his actions.

JOSEPH A. GUIDER, OF KINGS (DEM.): I disapprove of his work entirely.

JAMES LENNON, JR., OF KINGS (DEM.): I disapprove of his course generally.

JOHN McKON, OF KINGS (DEM.): I strongly disapprove his course.

FREDERICK A. NEWMAN, OF KINGS (DEM.): I disapprove in general.

ROBERT J. RUDD, OF KINGS (DEM.): I don't like his course. It is unsatisfactory.

FREDERICK SCHMID, OF KINGS (DEM.): I do not favor his work at all. I disapprove of it entirely.

WILLIAM L. PERKINS, OF KINGS (REP.): He is perfectly right in enforcing the law as he finds it, regardless of the effect on individuals, oppressive as it may be in some instances. But children ought not to be employed in any way as spies.

GEORGE W. WILSON, OF KINGS (REP.): It is decidedly wrong for any one to

foremost. I don't doubt that there has been in Roosevelt's case what amounts to an usurpation of authority on some side. No child spies meet my approval.

GUYVASE A. MATTESSON, OF CATTARAUGUS (REP.): I approve his course generally.

CHARLES H. MILLER, OF CATTARAUGUS (REP.): In general I approve. The laws should be enforced.

EUGENE B. ROUNDS, OF CAYUGA (REP.): In general I approve, but he has been too summary and arbitrary.

S. FRED NIXON, OF CHAUTAUGUS (REP.): Commissioner Roosevelt may not have played good politics, but he has done his duty, and I am with him. But the fact that he would be legislated out of office is only an incident in the Greater New York bill, and not his sole object. It is not fair to couple these things together.

S. FRED NIXON, OF CHAUTAUGUS (REP.): My approval of Commissioner Roosevelt is only partial, but I do favor his enforcement of the law against the saloons. He has undoubtedly done his duty.

JEROME BABCOCK, OF CHAUTAUGUS (REP.): In general I have a good opinion of Roosevelt as a fellow in dead earnest, but I don't believe in any child spy methods for any cause.

JOTHAM J. ALDRE, OF CHENANGO (REP.):

have gone too far and been somewhat arbitrary.

CORNELIUS COUGHLIN, OF ERIE (DEM.): I am decidedly opposed to the Roosevelt idea.

CHARLES BRAUN, OF ERIE (REP.): I am opposed to Roosevelt's policy throughout, and especially as to the child spy feature of it.

BYRON D. BROWN, OF FULTON AND HAMILTON (REP.): I am with him as to principle, but I question his methods.

THOMAS A. SEARS, OF FRANKLIN (REP.): I understand the Greater New York bill to be a party measure and, of course, it will pass even if it affects Mr. Roosevelt, but I will say that the people out my way think well of him.

NEWTON SWEET, OF GREENE (REP.): Some points I do, more points I don't—the child-spy system among the latter.

OLIVER H. SPRINGER, OF HERKIMER (REP.): Roosevelt is a little extreme—a little milder methods conduce to better results than to be too rigid.

CORNELIUS J. CLARK, OF JEFFERSON (REP.): Of course I approve of Roosevelt. He has only done his duty. There was nothing else for him to do.

WALTER ZIMMERMAN, OF JEFFERSON (REP.): In general I approve of his course, but cannot indorse some of his methods. I don't at all approve of his alleged employment of children as spies.

JOHN S. KOSTER, OF LEWIS (REP.): Yes; I believe in Roosevelt. He is enforcing the law and doing his whole duty.

OTTO KELSEY, OF LIVINGSTON (REP.): In some respects I approve of Commissioner Roosevelt, but not in all; I can't say I do approve of him totally.

LAMBERT B. KERN, OF MADISON (REP.): Perhaps he is a shade too particular in enforcing a Democratic law, but the law is there, you know. I don't believe in any child spies for one.

WILLIAM H. ARMSTRONG, OF MONROE (REP.): It is a local question, of moment only to New Yorkers. I favor a general carrying out of the law and the repeal of all obnoxious ones.

CHARLES J. SMITH, OF MONROE (REP.): I cannot approve of the employment of children as saloon spies under any circumstances.

FRANK A. DUDLEY, OF NIAGARA (REP.): It would require a great deal more than a simple "Yes" or "No" to answer so broad a question as that. As to the child spy feature, I am entirely opposed to anything of the sort.

HENRY E. WARNER, OF NIAGARA (REP.): I approve of the enforcement of all laws on the statute books, but I don't countenance any policy of sending children as spies into saloons.

WALTER EMERY, OF ONEIDA (DEM.): I must ask you to excuse me from talking on the Sunday closing question. I have nothing but condemnation for the child spy policy.

LOUIS F. GOODSELL, OF ORANGE (REP.): I prefer not to talk on the general proposition of Roosevelt's doings in New York City. There is not much to be said to be

have gone too far and been somewhat arbitrary.

E. M. WELLS, OF ONONDAGA (REP.): Arbitrary, very arbitrary; altogether too arbitrary.

FREDERICK STORM, OF QUEENS (REP.): I have no hesitation in declaring myself entirely opposed to any employment of children as spies. If Mr. Roosevelt has done so, I cannot approve the action.

MORTON CHOMWELL, OF QUEENS (REP.): Commissioner Roosevelt is a mischief-maker and I may be called biased, but I do believe that he is a conscientious man and is doing his work faithfully. If that is approving his course, say so.

JACOB STAHL, OF QUEENS (DEM.): I am not at all in favor of the gentleman's course.

GEORGE L. ANDERSON, OF RENSSELAER (REP.): You can't quote me too positively as against any child-spy methods.

ERASTUS F. POST, OF SUFFOLK (REP.): No child-spy idea can be tolerated, whether in Roosevelt or another.

HENRY ENDERS, OF SCHOHARIE (DEM.): I am absolutely in accord with Roosevelt in shutting up saloons on Sunday, but I cannot indorse the employment of children for any such purpose as it is said that he has done.

JOEL CLARK, OF STEUBEN (REP.): Nobody can approve of any child-spy programme.

MARTIN V. R. IVES, OF ST. LAWRENCE (REP.): If the party is for Greater New York the bill will get my vote. The people up here are much opposed to it, and I don't see how this bill can be said to be aimed at him.

IRA C. MILES, OF ST. LAWRENCE (REP.): I thoroughly approve of closing all saloons on Sunday. I have an impression that Mr. Roosevelt likes the sound of his own voice pretty well. Nobody can approve of sending children into saloons for any purpose, to spy or otherwise.

JAMES LOUNSBURY, OF ULSTER (REP.): I have no hesitation in disapproving entirely of any child spy policy.

W. S. VAN KUREN, OF ULSTER (REP.): In general I approve, but in some things he has been unnecessarily harsh and arbitrary.

GEORGE L. CARLISLE, OF WESTCHESTER (REP.): I don't wish to prejudice a case of which we, as legislators, are in some sense a court. But I will say that I approve of no child spy idea.

JAMES W. HUSTED, OF WESTCHESTER (REP.): I consider Mr. Roosevelt a conscientious man, who has tried to do his duty and tried to enforce the law as he found it and understood it. I believe he has made some mistakes, and the employment of children as spies is one of them.